AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): Controlled-release oral pharmaceutical compositions containing as an active ingredient 5-amino-salicylic acid, comprising:

a) an inner lipophilic matrix consisting of substances selected from the group consisting of unsaturated and/or hydrogenated fatty acid, salts, esters or amides thereof, fatty acid mono-, di- or triglycerids, waxes, ceramides, and cholesterol derivatives with melting points below 90°C ~~in which~~ and wherein the active ingredient is ~~at least partly inglobated~~ dispersed in said lipophilic matrix;

b) an outer hydrophilic matrix wherein the lipophilic matrix is dispersed, and said outer hydrophilic matrix consists of compounds selected from the group consisting of polymers or copolymers of acrylic or methacrylic acid, alkylvinyl polymers, hydroxyalkyl celluloses, carboxyalkyl celluloses, polysaccharides, dextrins, pectins, starches and derivatives, alginic acid, and natural or synthetic gums; ~~in which the lipophilic matrix is dispersed;~~

c) optionally other excipients; and

wherein the active ingredient is present in an amount of 80 to 95% by weight of the total composition.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended): Compositions as claimed in claim 1, wherein 5-aminosalicylic acid is ~~inglobated~~ dispersed in [[the]] a molten lipophilic matrix by kneading, extrusion and/or granulation.

4. (previously presented): Compositions as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic matrix consists of hydrogel-forming compounds.

5. (canceled)

6. (previously presented): Compositions as claimed in claim 1, comprising a gastro-resistant outer coating.

7. (original): Compositions as claimed in claim 6, wherein the gastro-resistant coating consists of methacrylic acid polymers or cellulose derivatives.

8. (currently amended): Compositions as claimed in claim 1, in the form of tablets, capsules, minitablets, and wherein the active ingredient is completely contained inside the lipophilic matrix.

9. (previously presented): Compositions as claimed in claim 1, in the form of tablets, capsules, mintablets, wherein the active ingredient is dispersed both in the hydrophilic matrix and the lipophilic matrix.

10. (canceled)

11. (previously presented): A process for the preparation of the compositions of claim 1, which comprises:

a) melt granulation of at least one portion of the active ingredient with the lipophilic excipients with melting point lower than 90°C;

b) mixing the granules from step a) with the hydrophilic excipients and subsequent tabletting or compression.